IN THE CLAIMS

1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) An intervertebral spacer device comprising:

a first plate having an inner surface and an exterior surface;

a second plate having an inner surface and an exterior surface, the inner surface of the first and second plates facing one another;

wherein said inner surface of said first plate comprises a ball-shaped structure extending therefrom, said ball-shaped structure having a curved convex surface directed away from said inner surface of said first plate, and said inner surface of said second plate ~~has~~having a resilient deformable spring affixed thereto at one or more locations such that at said one or more locations there is no movement of said spring relative to said second plate in any direction, said spring being monolithically formed and having a curvate volume for receiving and holding therein said ball-shaped structure, ~~said spring having~~ a top side with a curved convex surface that extends from the curvate volume and confronts said inner surface of said first plate and an underside with a curved concave surface that extends from the curvate volume and is spaced from and confronts said inner surface of said second plate.

14. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a mesh secured over one of said exterior surfaces, wherein said mesh is deflectable relative to the one of said exterior surfaces, and wherein the one of said exterior surfaces includes a substantially flat region and said mesh overlies and is spaced from said substantially flat region.

15. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said mesh overlying said substantially flat region has a convex shape when in an undeflected state.

16. (currently amended) An intervertebral spacer device comprising:

a first plate having an exterior surface; and

a second plate having an exterior surface;

a joint that couples said first and second plates together, said joint including a ball having a ~~curved surface facing~~curved convex surface directed away from said first plate, said ball attached with said first plate, and a resilient deformable socket being monolithically formed and affixed with said second plate for receiving and holding therein said ball, wherein said joint permits said first and second plates to move relative to one another, and wherein said socket has a top side with a curved ~~convex~~ surface that convexly confronts said first plate and an underside with a curved ~~concave~~ surface that is spaced from and concavely confronts said second plate.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said spring comprises a force restoring element disposed between said plates for counteracting load applied to at least one of said plates.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said ball-shaped structure is inwardly deflectable for being inserted into said curvate volume.

21. (currently amended) An intervertebral spacer device comprising:

first and second plates having exterior surfaces, said first and second plates being movable relative to one another;

wherein an inner surface of said first plate has a ball-shaped structure extending therefrom, said ball-shaped structure having a curved convex surface directed away from said inner surface of said first plate, and an inner surface of said second plate ~~has~~having a resilient deformable spring affixed thereto at one or more locations such that at said one or more locations there is no movement of said spring relative to said second plate in any direction, said spring being monolithically formed and having an opening for receiving and holding therein said ball-shaped structure, wherein said spring has a top side with a curved convex surface surrounding the opening and confronting said inner surface of said first plate, and an underside with a curved concave surface surrounding the opening and spaced from and confronting said inner surface of said second plates.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the opening of said spring comprises a curvate volume for receiving and holding therein said ball-shaped structure.

24. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a deflectable porous surface secured over one of said exterior surfaces, said porous surface being movable between an undeflected state and a deflected state, wherein said deflectable porous surface has a curved surface when in the undeflected state.

25. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said deflectable porous surface comprises a wire mesh.

26. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said wire mesh has a perimeter that is anchored to the exterior surface of the one of said plates and a center that is movable relative to the exterior surface of the one of said plates.

27. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said spring is secured to said second plate.

28. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said spring has at least one hole extending therethrough and said device further comprises a fastener extending through the at least one hole for securing said spring to said second plate.

29. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said spring has a first hole ~~at the first end thereof~~ and a second hole ~~at a second end thereof and~~, said device further comprise~~s~~ing a fastener extending through each of said holes for securing said spring to said second plate.

30. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said socket is secured to said second plate.

31. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said socket has at least one hole extending therethrough and said device further comprises a fastener

extending through the at least one hole for securing said socket to said second plate.

32. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said socket has a first hole ~~at the first end thereof~~ and a second hole ~~at a second end thereof and~~, said device further comprise~~s~~ing a fastener extending through each of said holes for securing said socket to said second plate.

33. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said spring is secured to said second plate.

34. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said spring has at least one hole extending therethrough and said device further comprises a fastener extending through the at least one hole for securing said spring to said second plate.

35. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said spring has a first hole ~~at the first end thereof~~ and a second hole ~~at a second end thereof and~~, said device further comprise~~s~~ing a fastener extending through each of said holes for securing said spring to said second plate.